

10/771,999

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An expandable basket mold for making a basket comprising:

a plurality of separate mold sections comprising at least a bottom section and a top section defining a contiguous circumferential sidewall extending between a top surface and a bottom surface of the basket mold; and

wherein the plurality of separate mold sections are secured together to form the basket mold by a releasable fastening mechanism, and each of the plurality of separate mold sections has a passage defining a throughbore through the basket mold and the fastening mechanism comprises at least a bolt passing through the plurality of mold sections to align and fasten the plurality of mold sections together; and

wherein the contiguous sidewall increases in radius between the bottom surface and the top surface of the mold.

2. (CANCELED)

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The expandable basket mold as set forth in claim 1 [2] further comprising at least an intermediate mold section sandwiched between the bottom section and the top section.

4. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The expandable basket mold as set forth in claim 1, wherein a first mold is defined by the releasable fastening mechanism securing at least the bottom section and the top section together, and wherein a second expanded mold is defined by release of the fastening mechanism and the addition of at least another separate mold section to the first mold, and the re-securing of the fastening mechanism to form the second expanded mold.

12/15/06 2:13 PM

- 2 -

10/771,999

5. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The expandable basket mold as set forth in claim 4, wherein each of the plurality of mold sections comprises a substantially planar upper surface and lower surface defining a sidewall portion therebetween.

6. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The expandable basket mold as set forth in claim 5, wherein the upper surface of each of the plurality of mold sections has an upper edge profile substantially matching a lower edge profile of the next adjacent mold section.

7. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The expandable basket mold as set forth in claim 6, wherein the upper surface of each of the plurality of mold sections is aligned with a lower edge of a next adjacent mold section and sidewall portions of each of the plurality of mold sections of each of the adjacent mold sections together define the contiguous sidewall.

8. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The expandable basket mold as set forth in claim 7, wherein each of the plurality of mold sections comprises at least a passage, which when axially aligned with the passage of an adjacent mold section defines a throughbore in the basket mold for receiving the releasable fastening mechanism for securing the mold sections together.

9. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The expandable basket mold as set forth in claim 8, wherein part of the passage in the bottom mold section is provided with a larger diameter defining a countersunk portion into which a head of the bolt may be situated when a nut attached to the bolt at an end opposite to the head is tightened.

10. (CANCELED)

11. (CANCELED)

12/15/06 3:21 PM

- 3 -

10/771,999

12. (CANCELED)

13. (CANCELED)

14. (CANCELED)

15. (CANCELED)

16. (CANCELED)

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The expandable basket mold as set forth in claim ~~[[16]]~~ 1, wherein each mold section is defined by an upper surface having an upper radius slightly larger than a lower radius of a lower surface of the mold section and the lower radius of each successive mold section from the bottom section substantially matches the upper radius of the preceding mold section to form the radially increasing contiguous sidewall extending between the top and bottom surface of the mold.